THE PROMPTERS PACKET OF LETTERS.

BOTH PRIVATE and Familiar.

Fitted (in fundry formes) to mens ſeuerall occaſions, and according to the qualſty of Perſons.

Not vnworthy Imitation of the moſt: But moſt neceſſary for ſuch as want either faculty or facility to endite.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

To the Reader.

MAny there are, vnto whom is not giuen a spirit inuentiue enough for their occasions, so that they are alwaies to seeke when the necessitie of their affaires calls them to write. Againe there are others in whom is no such defect of conceit, but yet are as much troubled about the manner of deliuering their minds. To direct either, and both of these then, what and how to write, was this worke especially vndertaken, in hope neuertheless it would not proue altogether so vnuse-full for such abler iudgements, as feele not these others want in themselues, but that they may meete with something in it whose example may doe them seruice. So much concerning the generall frame of the Worke. For the Letters in particular, there is not added vnto euery one a superscription or subscription, but onely to so many as might suffice to instance with some variety, what is proper and best fashionable in that kinde. And for their Contents, they are expressed in a Table here following; whereunto hauing recourse, a man may finde direction there to any such Letters as shall neerest agree with the nature of the businesse he hath in hand.

A briefe Table of the ſpeciall Arguments of *theſe ſeuerall Letters.*

EXcuſe for ſeldome writing: with proteſtation of ſincere affection and ready ſeruice.

Recommendation of a worthy perſon to the acquaintance & aſſiſtance of ſome ſpecial friend.

A prety preuention of excuſe for ſeldome writing, concluding with friendly complement.

To importune the interceſſion of one friend toward another, for diſpatch in a money matter, or other caſe of importance.

A curteous offer, and kind acceptance of friendly offices.

An earneſt expoſtulation of anſwer to letters long omitted.

A complaint of wants, with vehement ſolicitation of a friend to get him debts by faire meanes (if it may be) or by foule rather then faile.

A ſhort quarrell of vnkindneſſe for not writing: concluding in a vow of perpetuall amity.

A thankefull acknowledgement of kindneſſes receiued, and well entertaining of a ſeruant recommended.

A gratefull acknowledgement of kind offices towards ones Sonne, with requeſt to continue the ſame.

A briefe commendation of a friend.

An acknowledgement of curteſies vndeſerued.

A mild taxation for not writing, and forſome ſeeming negligence in proſecution of a buſineſſe.

A witty excuſe for long intermiſſion of writing.

A due acknowledgement of true friendſhip, which (eſpecially) in aduerſitie is more apparant than in proſperity.

A thank-

A thankfull acknowledgment of one that hath well reported of vs when occasion hath beene offered.
A sad and serious complaint of a friends vnkindnes and ingratitude.
Recommendation of a poore man to the fauor and furtherance of some worthy friend.
An earnest protestation of sincere affection: with some touch of vnkindnes taken for too light beliefe of sinister reports.
A pleasant complement, discoursing of the contempt of the Court, and content of a retired life.
Recommendation of an extraordinary man to the worthy friendship of some honourable person.
Recommendation of one friend to anothers fauour and assistance.
A promise of our best endeauour in the education of a child; notwithstanding some doubts of his capacity and inclination.
A second reproofe, or rather the doubling of a friendly admonition.
A briefe discourse concerning the progression (or rather the succession and vicissitude) of learning, sometimes flourishing in one Climate, sometimes in another.
An excellent and extraordinary letter of commendation
A gratefull acceptance of a friendly gift, with modest refusall of things, exceeding either the giuers means or the receiuers merit.
An earnest dissuasiue from a cruell and couetous course of life.
An expostulation of vnkind misconceits and iealousies in friendship.
Consolation for the death of a brother or friend.
A complement full of acknowledgement of courtesies receiued.
A graue intercession to a Father for a son that hath offended: with friendly testimony of his hopefull towardnesse.

A ſhort complement vpon receit of ſome new curteſie.
Excuſe for too rare writing, vrging with all the proſecution of ſome buſineſſe, vpon occaſion of the death of a friend, the election of another in his ſtead.
Thankfull acceptance of a friendly counſell, aduiſing to follow (or ſerue) ſome great man: whence an obſeruation of the cold recompence of ſeruices in theſe dayes in compariſon of times paſt.
Vpon ſubmiſſion of a runnagate and vnruly ſonne, the kind father (vnderhand) commends him to the ſeruice of a worthy friend, vnder whoſe ſhelter, neceſſity had already driuen him.
Excuſe for not comming to congratulate a friends returne with proteſtation and compariſon of affection with the forwardeſt.
Thankfull acknowledgement of kindnes vnto ones ſonne.
A priuate taxation of the publike ingratitude of great perſons toward ſuch as haue beſt deſerued of them.
Excuſe for not ſaluting a friend paſſing by vs, endeauoring (by the way) to wipe away his imputation of pride or of forgetfulneſſe.
A ſad commemoration of ſome worthy friend deceaſed.
A grateful acknowledgement of an eſpeciall fauor from any great man.
A ſhort and ſweet conſolation in the death of friends.
A modeſt complement extenuating our owne deſert in any fauour done our friend, acknowledging all to bee but duty.
A gentle and eaſie ſubmiſſion to ſome new direction or alteration of our commiſſion.
Recommendation of a forward ſonne to the fauor and entertainement of ſome famous Captaine in the warres.
A complement moſt officious and affectionate to a Lady, concerning ſome ſerious affaires of hers.
A pleaſant Irony, in commendation of Law, and the con-

commodities of Lawe ſuter.
A pretty controuerſie compounded in a witty complement.
A briefe anſwere to a bitter complement vpon a falſe ground.
An earneſt and elegant entreaty, importuning the aſſiſtance of ſome friend in any matter of importance, and that with expedition.
A kind of quarrell of vnkindneſſe with a friend for leauing vs vnſeene and vnſaluted, hauing in a manner paſſed by our doore.
Interceſſion for fauour and remiſſion in the behalfe of one that hath offended, and is vnfainedly ſorry for his fault.
To importune a friend to proſecute to perfection any buſineſſe alreadie begun.
A particular account of ſundry buſineſſes committed to ones care.
A moſt Chriſtian conſolation of a friend in any croſſe or affliction.
An earneſt recommendation of a well qualified ſeruant to ſome place worthy of his parts.
An amorous complement vpon the firſt ſight, or after ſomſhort parley.
An earneſt proteſtation of perpetuall loue and loyaltie.
A ſad extaſie for the abſence of your Miſtreſſe.
A Loue letter, or the ſumme of Lovers Rhetoricke, in two figures, viz, *Flattery* and *Fayning*.
Another of like argument.
Another not vnlike.
Another of the ſame.
Another, no leſſe earneſt, though perhaps leſſe honeſt.
A friendly anſwer to ſuch a ſuter.

A FORME OF SVPERSCRIPTION OF LETTERS.

To my very honourable good Lord.
To the right honourable my especiall good Lord and Master, &c.
To the noble and every way excellent Lady, &c.
To my honoured friend, Sir, &c.
To my very honoured friend, Sir, &c.
To my worthy friend.
To my well esteemed friend.
To my very much esteemed.
To my dearely esteemed friend.
To my worthily esteemed friend.
To my most respected friend.
To my much respected friend.
To my worthy respected friend.
To my more then ordinarily respected friend.
To my endeared and worthy friend.
To my euer kindest friend.
To my truely loving friend.
To my much approued friend.
To my well approued friend.
To my approued deare friend.
To my reuerend friend.
To my very learned friend.
To my learned and iudicious friend.
To the right Worshipfull my very good Master M, &c. Esquire.
To my highly esteemed friend,

A FORME OF VVRITING LETTERS.

Excuse for seldome writing, with protestation of sincere affection and ready service.

SIR, The continuall employment of my affaires will not permit me to write oftner vnto you: howbeit you may be assured, whensoever you haue occasion to vse my service, they shall not so ouer-rule me. For my affection to you is no lesse then your vertue, and the many offices of kindnes which heretofore you haue done me, doe require. Neither is this affection of mine placed in the outward complement of words, but in the interiour of my heart, where, though it seeme to lie hid and concealed, yet shall it be sure to shew it selfe at all times when any point appertaining either to your profit or honour shall come in question. And this your experience shal

vndoub-

vndoubtedly make good vpon euerie occasion wherein I may bee so much fauoured of fortune as to bee made apt for your vse. In the meane time I remaine,

Wholly at your Commandement.

Recommendation of a worthy person, to the acquaintance and assistance of some speciall friend.

SIr: My purpose is not by anie long or artificiall letter, to violate the lawes of our ancient and perfect friendship, nor offer wrong to your curteise and singular iudgment in the commendation of this friend *M.P.* who being a gentleman of sort, and of such parts that all that know him are induced not onely to loue, but to honour him, it shall suffice me to say he is my friend, and worthy to be yours, the rest you will find in him your selfe, being well assured that hauing once knowne him, his acquaintance wil be very deare vnto you. He comes to town about certain of his affaires, wherein he shall haue need of your counsell and fauor: and I cannot doubt, that either you will neglect the goodnes of your owne disposition, or his merit, not so much for that I entreat it, as because your vertue perswades it, and his requires it. I shall be very glad to vnderstand, that he may find you a liberal dispenser of these offices, and you him a thankfull and worthy receiuer of them. And I think not but you will as much acknowledge vnto me the notice I haue giuen you of such a gentleman, together with the means to doe him pleasure, as be the entrance I haue made him into the possession of your friendship. Loue one another then (as I know you will) and in your loue reserue me such place as I hope to deserue, and doe very much desire.

A pretty preuention of excuſe for ſeldome writing: concluding with friendly complement.

CHoſen, it impoꝛts not ſo much (as ſome ſay) that friends which haue alwaies made exchange of euery good office of loue, ſhould be tyed to a continuall entercourſe of letters. Foꝛ repoꝛt that takes account of all things caries from one to another newes enough of both. And foꝛ proꝛfe of it, I am perſwaded that ere it be long, you will vnderſtand by it of all that I doe, as by the ſame meane I am oftentimes acquainted with your courſes: ſo that it is as good as a wꝛiting to vs with letters, wherein we may take no leſſe pleaſure, then the eie doth in pictures: foꝛaſmuch as rumour is nothing elſe but an open letter where euery man may read what him liſt. Wherefoꝛe neuer goe about to excuſe your ſelfe vnto me of that, whereof foꝛ my part I neuer meane to excuſe my ſelfe vnto you: but continue me in your memoꝛy with this opinion, that you haue as much power ouer me and my beſt meanes, as ouer any of your owne: neither is it with bare offers, oꝛ the common ſacrifices of a good will, that I deſire you ſhould be ſatisfied: foꝛ I am of the religion that makes a nullitie of faith without woꝛkes, and therefoꝛe be aſſured to find me much better then my woꝛd in all your occaſions: to the experience whereof I referre you, and my ſelfe to be,

Alwayes at your ſeruice.

To importune the Intercession of one friend toward another, for dispatch in a money matter, or other case of importance.

SIr, I may iustly vaunt, that I carry a minde more apt to giue then to take. But God be thanked and my fortune, I haue oftentimes cause to ask, but very seldome power to doe a pleasure. And I reioyce more when I haue meanes to gratifie my friend, then I grieue when I am to importune them. It may be now you may thinke this is some preamble of necessitie. I am contented you should take it so. M. Treasurer, though my pension hath béne due a moneth and more, saith he cannot pay me without an expresse cõmandment from my Lo: and that also he hath no money. Now I that haue more occasions vpon my back then crowns in my purse, doe appeale from this excuse, and making you the Iudge of it, do earnestly pray, nay coniure you, by that courtesie which yet hath neuer failed mee in my need, not to suffer sentence to passe against me: but as a fauour altogether deriued from the goodnes of your disposition, let my occasions through your interposure, finde such supply as their present extremity require. And at any hand, I beseech you, so deale, that the Treasurer may not say he hath no money: for that would proue a seauer to him, and a plague to me: against the which hoping to receiue a preseruatiue in your return hereunto, I leaue you to the compassing of it, and my selfe,

Very desirous in euery thing

To serue you.

A courteous offer, and kind acceptance of friendly Offices.

VVIth more Honor, and by a more worthy person, you might have presented your letters vnto my Lord: but not by any that without more affection and desire would vndertake the office then my self. And that not only for your satisfaction (the which yet I especially regard) but also for mine owne cõtent, it being greatly to my reputation, that a gentleman of such worth & estæme as your-selfe, should make choice of me for so good an employment. I very much thanke M.C. for giving your memory that addresse, and me the meanes to do you service, if that may be called service which redoũds to my credit. Thursday next my Lord will be vpon return, and then with the best commodity I will performe what it hath pleased you to command and withall accordingly aduertise you. In euery other occasion of your seruice, I humbly beseech you not to spare me, to the end that by the way of your commandement, I may get out of these bonds wherin I stand so obliged vnto you, as well for diuers other fauours, as especially for this you presently doe me

An earnest expostulation of answere to letters long omitted.

SIr, I wrot twice vnto you by a young man of this place, and it is so long agoe that I am almost out of hope of answer: neuertheless if he be not dead by the way, which God forbid, or that you be in health, as I much desire, and still retaine the same opinion of mée my friendship deserues, let me entreat you to rid mée of this feare, which is much increased by the comming of this messenger, without letters from you. For

though I were not at home, you might not thinke me so far or so concealed, but that your letters would haue found me out. I wrote vnto you then at large of the greatnes of my businesse, and what resolution I had taken, I will not trouble you therefore with any repetition, but onely now desire you to consider that new friendship is not to be preferred to the surety of olde, which like old wines are euery way better then new. For mine owne part, I loue you in the same degree with my self, and in such manner, that I desire nothing more then to be acceptable vnto you. I hope you are so enclined towards me: otherwise I should doubt that not finding on of abilitie to giue you any promise of profit, your friendship is therefore decayed: which would proue an incongruity of discretion and offence of iudgement. But not fearing that euer you will fall into any such error, I commit you to a return, and my selfe to an expectation of you answere.

A complement of Wants with vehement solicitation of a friend to get in debts by faire meanes (if it may be) or by foule rather then faile.

GOOD Nephew, I know I should very much wrong your loue in recommending my affaires vnto you, but necessity which cannot brooke delay, cõpels me vnto it. I am altogether without money, and in my things are wanting in my house now iudge whether I haue not reason to presse you: with some importunity for the getting in of such as are there owing me. Those good debtors of mine, especially the party you wot of, are like dull iades, that will not stir a foot without spurring. Wherefore seing that both my occassions, and the slacknes of their nature require it, I

pray

pray you egge them forward, and if the spurre will not serue, lay them on and spare not, you must remember that the end of this moneth will be the end of your power, and my hopes. For if you with all the loue you beare me, together with the meanes and desire you haue to do me pleasure, cannot bring these businesses to any good passe, what should I expect from those whom here after I must employ that shall haue little ability, and happly lesse will. The gentleman you mentioned in your last, I haue not yet seen, neither doe I thinke his sight will bring me more commoditie then pleasure, considering he is a fellow that promise th mountains, but neuer performes any thing: & in troth I know not what to say to him, for I find such a distance betwéen his words and workes, that now I begin to hope neuer to hope on him more. I will trouble you no farther but onely to put M. G. in minde of my suit, to the end his promises may bring forth effects like themselues: and so very timely I commit you to God.

A short quarrell of vnkindnes for not writing: concluded in a vow of perpetuall Amitie.

SIr, if a long possession with you were turned into custome, I should accuse you: for suffering one of your folkes to come hither with empty hands. But the truth is, though I am sorry for that I haue receiued no letters from you, yet am I not so sorry for that default, as in that it is a certain signe vnto me that as you haue not thought vpon your return, because we neuer receiue letters from you, but whē you are vpō the point of your comming hither. Howsoeuer, be assured that neither your letters nor the want of them shall giue any encrease or diminution to that respect and

loue

tone I beare you, hauing alwayes made this a firme determination with my ſelf, to be ſtill the ſame I euer haue béne and am vnto you, I meane your

Humble ſeruant and friend.

A thankefull acknowledgement of kindneſſes receiued: and well entertaining of a ſeruant recommended.

GOOD Coſen, not being able in better manner to anſwer the greatnes of the obligation, wherin I ſtand engaged vnto you for the good remembrance it pleaſeth you alwaies to haue of me, I muſt entreat you to reſt contented with an infinitie of thankes I preſently ſend you, vntill ſuch time as occaſion ſhall furniſh me with means to make you a more worthie ſatisfaction. I am very ſorry my fortunes are worſe then competent, and that for diuers reaſons, among the which I account it not the leaſt, that I cannot make prouiſion correſpondent to the merit of the young man you recommended vnto me. I know not what his entertainment hath bin other where, neuertheleſſe if he be as you ſay, I will ſtraine my ſelfe in cutting off ſome leſſe conſiderable charge to giue him his demand. But before we proceed any further, I would willingly haue him ſend me an eſſay of his hand to the end that he being ſure of his wages, and I of the qualitie of his ſeruice, both of vs may remaine ſatisfied, for touching the reſt I wholly referre me to your iudgement: ſo with all affection I commend me vnto you.

A grate-

A gratefull acknowledgement of kind Offices towards ones Sonne, with request to continue the same.

SIr, I am to giue you many thanks for the fauours it hath pleased you to shew my sonne. This is not the first kindnes I haue receiued from you and yours, neither was my gallant worthy of it, considering his fault. But you haue béene vnto him as a *Pharos* in the middest of a darknes to saue him from the shipwrack, which without you, he had assuredly suffered. I know not what will be the issue of it, pray God your prognostication may proue true. I haue entreated M. P. to ioyne with you, and supply my want of presence in exhortations. I haue also desired M. F. to take him into his house, and I hope he will not deny me. The forme of his voyage hath much displeased me: it may be God will turne it all to the best. But to tell you, what I thinke, nothing surely can be truer then that which Tertullian saith to his wife. That the pleasure which we take in our children is full of anguish: neither is it without cause that S. Ierome hath discoursed very much in one of his Epistles, without any certain resolution taken thereupon, whether of the two were most expedient, either to marry or not to marry. For my part I beleeue this question may be concluded by that sentence of Martiall. For doubtles he that hath no children, takes not so much pleasure as he that hath withall he endures not that trouble and veration of minde the other doth.

A forme of writing Letters.

A brieſe recommendation of a Friend.

SIr, I ſhould rather merit reproch then reputation, to recommend vnto you the affaires of M. G. the preſent bearer. For to his knowledge your bounty is ſuch, that it extendeth to thoſe you never ſaw. I leaue you then to imagine what aſſurance he may haue of it that hath knowne you ſo long, and that by his owne vertues ſufficiently commends himſelfe, and that is alſo commended vnto you by one of your moſt affectionate friends. Touching the requeſt he ſhall offer for my cauſe, I will not preſſe you much in it, being aſſured you will not do your ſelfe that wrong to deny me: for conſidering that by your ancient friendſhip we two are but as one, the refuſall you ſhould make me, would but ſhew the little regard you carry vnto your ſelfe. And ſo very kindly for this time I take my leaue.

An acknowledgement of curteſies vndeſerued.

I Receiue no letter from M. I. that is not accõpanied with an expreſſe and ſingular mention of the many good Offices you continually do for me, which altogether proceeds from the goodnes of your own diſpoſition without any merit at all of mine, and I were vnfit to be ranked in the number of the moſt ingratefull that euer were, if at the leaſt I did not acknowledge it by letters, vntill ſuch time as I may get with ſome happy occaſion to deſerue it better: wherein I will ſo employ my ſelfe, with ſo good a will and affection that you ſhall neuer repent any pleaſure you haue done vnto him, that deſires nothing more then to appeare how much he is

Truely your friend.

A mild taxation for not writing, and for some seeming negligence in prosecuting of a businesse.

SIr, your slacknes rather deserueth blame then excuse in my behalf, and I am glad you are fallen into the same error wherof you haue so often accused me. Your letters at all times would be very welcome, but much more now being so desirous to vnderstand what successe hath followed my kinsmans businesse, which not long since with such care I recōmended vnto you. I cānot doubt that you haue forgotten him, the matter concerning him so much, and he a man so vnworthy and vnfit to suffer a neglect: besides, I haue many times heard you say that an iniury in that kind is a cause iust and sufficient enough to dissolue all friendship. But to come again to my first quarrell, I know if you should be called in question before the God of respect, for all your eloquence you would bee condemned either for a negligent or an inconsiderate friend. Neuertheles seeing you haue had no good opportunity to write, I pardon this silence, and as one that holds you deare, will content my selfe with your best leisure, and conueniency. I make no question but that you and the rest of our friends there looke for some great intelligence at my hands, but I am not able to satisfie you with the least occurrence of note. For matters of the State lie so deepe buried in the graue of secrecy, that no man can come to haue a sight of them but with the eye of reason which iudgeth wel enough of that which should be, but not of that which shal be. Wherfore you must be therwith contented vntill the rest shall come to light. And so I pray you continue me in your fauour, whereunto with all affection I very humbly commend my selfe.

A witty excuse for long intermission of writing.

SIr, I could fetch some color of excuse for this long intermission of writing, from the many affaires wherein I am continually conuersant: but it would be neither worthy your acceptance, nor my affection. For there is no employment either of body or mind, that should interrupt any office appertaining to your pleasure, or the satisfaction of my duty. Wherfore leauing this excuse which would be more honest then iust I will seeke to cleare my selfe with the plaine truth, and freely tell you that I haue not written all this while, because I had nothing to write, & that I thought letters were neither necessary for my occasion, nor your contentment. If I had seen that to fortifie and stablish our antient friendship there had been need of such trifling complements, I should haue thought it had bin grounded on a lesse firme and weaker foundation then it is. That vertuous and honest disposition which euen from our youth and first acquaintance I alwayes found in you, hath knit our affections so fast together, that not the strength of any enemy, enuie, or other worldly accidents whatsoeuer shal euer be able to vndo it: Either for I should much wrong your iudgement, in beleeuing that you can be so carried away with the vulgar, as to think that frequencie of letters is precisely required for the fortification of a friendship. I shal neuer be perswaded that any such hereste can take hold on you, or that you more esteeme of verball ceremony, then of action & the true intent of an honest will. For my part I haue still been more a friend of deeds then of words, which most commonly little pleasure and lesse profit, whereas the other beget them both. My slacknesse in writting shall be recompenced with a desire and endeauour to doe you seruice in euery occasion whereunto my

my power, but ableſt meanes may extend: whereof becauſe I perſwaded my ſelfe you make no doubt, I will here with my humble and kindeſt commendations, give end to the preſent.

A due acknowledgment of true friendſhip, which (eſpecially) in aduerſity is more apparent then in proſperity.

SIr, by your letters I perceiue you haue the ſame opinion of my loue, I alwayes deſired. I am glad I haue not bẽ deceiued in the iudgement of your wiſedome and good will. And ſince that true and perfect friendſhip conſiſts not in words or faire promiſes but in effects and vertuous executions: I muſt needs confeſſe that I haue found you of little ſpeech and ſuperfluous apparance in my behalfe, ſo long as fortune fauoured me; but as ſoone as my troubles and occaſions began but to knocke at the gate of your aſſiſtance, you haue euer well expreſſed the goodnes of your generous diſpoſition: and I may truly ſay I neuer met with any, or very few ſuch like. Wherefore be aſſured, that I will ſerue, reſpect, & loue you, as long as I haue breath to doe it, and that I am as farre from ingratitude as may be. I know many that brag and talke of fauors which they neuer did me: whereas you haue dealt liberally with me, and neuer ſpoke of it. They are indebted to me then for that which they charge me with, but I neuer receiued: and I vnto you for many pleaſures done me, which yet you neuer put to account. I will adde nothing hereunto, but that if I could ſend you my heart inſtead of this paper, you ſhould ſee the integrity of my meaning. I haue ſpoken with the party you wot of and my reaſons, together with your authority, haue ſo

prenailed, that your desire shall be accomplished. If in any other thing I may serue you, giue as much boldnesse to your commandements, as you haue alwaies found in my intreaties: so shall I be confirmed in that perswasion I haue that you esteeme of me as indeede I am,

Your very humble seruant and friend.

A thankefull acknowledgement to one that hath well reported of vs when occasion hath beene offered.

To my worthy friend, &c.

SIr, I should be to ingratefull if I should not giue you a thousand thankes for the honest mention you were pleased to make of me in the company you wot of. Only take heed that to a purpose you giue not caution for him that may chance to faile you. It is not the first fauour you haue done me, nor the last I hope to receiue from you. If there be that in mee you speake of, be assured it is for to doe you very humble seruice: wherein I will employ my selfe vpon all occasions with as good a will as now I pray vnto God to giue you your desires.

A sad and serious complaint of a friends vnkindnesse and ingratitude.

GOod friend, it is no matter of difficultie for those that are in health to giue much counsell and many receits to the sicke. If my disposition could haue receiued comfort from the discreet and honest letters of a friend, I had found it in yours, which are furnished

with

with all sort of kindnesse and accomplished courtesie. But like to him that thinks he is mounted on Sedanus horse, my obstinate despaire sets so sure a watch on my thoughts, that it will suffer nothing to enter into them but veration and miserie. I am sorry your medicine cannot worke that in me, which your vertue deserues, able in troth to draw any other out of the griefe of calamity. But leave me I pray ye as I am. For there is nothing can content me so long as I know that my dissembling friend hath violated all the lawes of honesty and reason, and vtterly abolished out of his memorie that loue and respect I euer bare him. It grieues me exceedingly that my minde is not as well able to resist the assaults of misfortune, as his was to execute on me all kinde of ingratitude: to the end that in this affaire I might as easily haue borne his wrongs, as heretofore I haue faithfully acquitted my selfe in so many commandements he hath laid vpon me. Deare friend, if your loue extend so farre as I cannot doubt but it doth suffer me to be as I am, a most infortunate man, and rest you with your faire and kind bedfellow in all happinesse, which I will alwayes pray, may bee more and more encreased, & continued long vpon you.

Recommendation of a poore man to the fauour and furtherance of some worthy friend.

SIr, I know I cannot please you better, then to present you with meanes to imploy those abilities of your good and liberall disposition on some such person as shall haue occasion to vse them. A qualitie no doubt aboue all others worthy, honest and acceptable to God. Wherefore I that of this affection both in others and mine owne particular, haue made such good experience doe especially labour, being so faithfull a seruant

mine

and friend vnto you as I am, to satisfie you therein: hoping withal by this meanes to be able to cleare some part of those many obligations wherein I stand so far ingaged vnto you. The bearer hereof is a poore man that is going to London about certain affaires, whereof you shall be aduertised by him at large: he shall haue very much need of your counsel and countenance. I beseech you Sir, impart vnto him of those your fauours, wherein you are so rich and abundant, that you cannot depart with so many, as there will be many more remaining behind. And in regard of merit, you are to hope for more in the behalfe of this man, then of any other that euer you succoured, by reason his pouerty & want of meanes will neuer suffer him so much as to thinke of requitall. Herein follow but your own worthy inclination: and reioyce with your self at the excellency of knowledge that is ioyned in you to this, that you haue neither pere nor superior in curtesie. Whereunto I very humbly commend my self, and you to that power frō whom I wil daily wish you all prosperitie.

An earnest protestation of sincere affection: with some touch of vnkindnesse taken for too light beliefe of sinister reports.

GOOD Sir, I would my heart lay as open to the view of your eye, as the colour of a rose doth thorow the clearest crystal. For then beholding in it how much I truly loue and respect you, and how much beyond all others I desire your profit and honor; I know you could not but thinke it a shame to fall into any the least suspition or doubt of my friendship. If you would haue measured your thoughts by mine, you should haue

haue ſéene that I loue you, becauſe you leue me, and that I reſpect you becauſe I am indebted to your vertue, I cannot chuſe but thinke it ſtrange, that a man of ſuch knowledge, wiſedome & great experience in all things, ſhould ſo eaſily ſlide into error. You ſhould rather haue giuen credit to ſo many proofes you haue made of my faith and affection, then to the malice and enuie of men. And to ſpeak ſomwhat freely vnto you: if you be perſwaded that that is true, which you tell me you haue heard, you do your ſelfe much wrong; for it would argue great weakneſſe in you, to giue eare to any ſuch thing: it being as vicious to beléeue euery thing, as to beléeue nothing: for to be ouer-eaſie of beléefe, and not to beléeue at all, are couſins in vice by ſecret philoſophie. Wel, howſoeuer it be, I wil alwaies loue you as much as you ſhal deſire to be loued of me, and as long as your vertues haue any being, whereupon I haue grounded that worthy affection I bare you. Wherefore I pray you eſtéeme of me not only as of a friend, but as of an eſpeciall and ſingular friend, for ſo I deſire to appeare, and ſo you ſhal be ſure to find mé as ſone as anie fit occaſion ſhall offer me the meanes to make it good.

A pleaſant complement diſcourſing of the contempt of the Court, and content of a retired life.

YOur man paſſing this way, came to enquire of my health, therewithall to acquaint you at his returne: which in that regard he preſumes will be the more acceptable, by reaſon of the loue it pleaſeth you to beare me. Wherefore you ſhall vnderſtand, that (God be thanked) I am very well; and not onely I, to

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whom it is naturall to be well in all places, but euen a very rogue would thinke himself half an Emperor, living as I doe, so quietly, and so wel retired from the slauery wherein I continued but too long. I neuer was in Paradise (as farre as I remember) so that I cannot iustly say what the life of the blessed is: but sure I am, to starue here for hunger in an happines to the seruice of a Court: and me thinks a Peasant with vs is in far better state then a great man there. When I lie in my bed, and consider a poore seruant almost dead for cold, and fainting with heat, & see greene wood to warme him, and dead drinke to refresh him, and if he hap to be sicke, little means to accommodate him, I see him abroad in raine, haile and snow, and when he comes in nothing to comfort him; Lord (thinke I) what a blessed case am I in, that am as free from these inconuenences, as he is alwayes subiect to them. As there is no misery to that of a poore Courtier that is weary & cannot sit, hungry and cannot eat, athirst, and cannot drinke, & sleepy, & yet must watch: so I am perswaded there is no happinesse to mine, that eate when I haue an appetite, rest when I am weary, and goe to bed when I am sleepy: so that the houres that I tell of the clocke, are but so many houres of my pleasure. Therefore neuer enquire more how I doe, for be assured I lack nothing to make vp a full and absolute contentment, but your companie, which I hope (at least wise if you be a Gentleman of your word) I shall not be long without. In the expectation whereof I will leaue my self, and you to the tuition of the Almightie.

Recom-

Recommendation of an extraordinary man to the worthy friendship of some honourable person.

To my euerhonoured friend Sir I,&c.

HOnourable Sir, I acknowledge much vnto fortune for offering me occasiõ at one time to satisfie both sir *Thomas M.* and your self some part of those many obligations wherein I confesse my selfe to haue bẽ a long time indebted vnto you, and by the way of continuing friendship betwixt you, alike in gẽdnesse of nature, excellency of spirit, and all other qualities worthy your noble dispositions: so that he which might behold the face of your hearts, could hardly discern the one from the other. By experiences and the common opinion of the world, he is amply possest of your vertues. And if you haue not yet heard the publike voice of renowne that goes about proclaiming his worth, may you be pleased to giue credit vnto my pen, which may iustly say, that a more valiant, wise, vertuous, or noble Gentleman, liues not this day vpon the earth. Embrace one another then at my intreatie, and with the bands of courteous offices so straitly tie your affections together, that like the *Gordian* knot, no worldlie accident may be of power to dissolue it, I assure my selfe you will doe it with a marueilous satisfaction of each other. But yet I beseech you, let it not be done in such manner, but that like an humble and faithfull seruant as I am vnto you both, I may find a place in the middest of your vertuous friendship.

Recommendation of one friend to anothers fauour and assistance.

SIr, if you will haue me lesse importunate and troublesome vnto you, I would wish you to become lesse courteous towards me. For out of your fauor I pick many occasions to giue you trouble. Besides, I know not how to refuse my friends, vnles I should shew my selfe negligent of them, which would procure a very great wrong to my nature. M. P. for his worthy qualities capable of your loue, in going to the Court about some affaires, in the dispatch whereof he shall haue much need of counsell and fauou. And not knowing any one more liberall of them then your selfe, he hath very earnestly intreated me to write somwhat more then ordinarie vnto you in his commendation. Now I that am naturally inclined to pleasure euerie man, especially those vnto whom nothing ought to be denied, haue willingly vndertaken this charge as wel to gratifie him, as to do you seruice in furnishing you with meanes to win the heart of a gentleman of that value he is of. I cannot doubt but that you will exercise your accustomed goodnesse vpon him, either in regard of my intreatie, or his vertue, which is such, that as soone as it shall be knowne vnto you, there will be no more nyd of my letters. Wherefore I will not goe about by any further Art to wrong your iudgement, being well assured you will find, that your credit shall be employed, and my request satisfied for a very vertuous gentleman.

A promise of our best indeuour in the education of a Childe, notwithstanding some doubts of his capacitie and inclination.

SIr, the loue that I beare you, proceeding from your merit and my obligation, might assure you, that whatsoeuer I can doe for your sonne, shall be performed with all affection and good will. For the force of your entreaties cannot be of more power in that regard then my desire: only it grieues me, that the field of his vnderstanding is not so proper to receiue, as I am ready to sow init the seed of my litle experience, to the end, that with his profit, and my pleasure you might see the fruit of my labour. He seemes to me to bee borne more apt for any other exercise, than that ciuilitie; neuertheless, more to satisfie your fancie then my iudgement, I will alwaies keepe him neere about me: and be assured, that if the trauell or diligence of the husbandman can mend and better a barren ground, I will not bee defective in his behalfe. For you shall vnderstand, that of al my trauell and paines, there is no fruit more deare or pleasing to me, then that which proceeds from the graine I haue sown. The pleasure which the laborer feeles, when with his own hand he plucks the fruit hanging on the tree which he himselfe hath planted, is very great. How much greater then ought the contentment of that man to be, who hauing endued a tender youth with good manners, gathers the fruit of vertue, comming of it. For my part, I will do all that shal be possible and necessary, so that if things fall not out answerable to your expectation and my desire, you may impute the fault rather to the matter then the workemanship.

A second reproofe, or rather the doubling of a friendly admonition.

SIr, in the letter which not long since you receiued from me, and which, as I am giuen to vnderstand, you receiued in euil part, I came rather drawne by a desire of your good, and the loue that I beare you, then perswaded by my own will to execute the office of reprehension vpon you: and as the good Physitian that not to hurt but to heal his patient comes much against his mind to the violent remedies of fire or knife; so did I carry my selfe towards you, that if my correction could haue proued pleasant and profitable vnto you, I should haue béene glad that by my meanes you had recouered your health, or that therein failing, I might at least-wise haue satisfied mine owne conscience and the dutie of our friendship. As from a friend then that truly affects you, and not as from a malicious enemy receiue the exhortation I made you. For otherwise you shew that a flatterer is more acceptable vnto you then a friend. And I that aboue all others abhor that qualitie, and that had rather be an open enemie, then a hollow friend will sooner leaue to loue you, then dissemble with you, and rather offend you with a plaine truth, then please you with a deceitful lie. But pardon me I pray you, for speaking thus freely, and consider that your disease stood in need of a sharpe, and strong purge, which I wish may worke that effect in you the case requires.

A forme of writing Letters.

A briefe discourse concerning the progression (or rather the succession) and vicissitude of learning; sometimes flourishing in one Climate, sometimes in another.

To my learned friend.

SIr, whereas you desire a free deliuery of my mind vpon the matter propounded in your last, I must néedes tell you I am not any way of your opinion to thinke that the temperature of the Clymate can make men either more or lesse learned, as if there were certaine countries more affected to good letters then others. I will not deny, but that euery nation hath certaine vertues and vices, which are transmitted from one to another, as it were by an hereditary and successiue right: nor haue I séene any country anciently tarred for a vice, which is not still continuing in the posterity, although it haue bin peopled with new colonies. But touching so much as appertains to Sciences the discourse is farre otherwise, as may be gathered by very ocular examples: was there euer greater personages in all kinds of knowledge and learning than in Greece, and was there euer so much barbarisme in the world, as that which is presently in it: Looke but vpon Affrick, in what opinion of doctrine had it euer bin in? Neuertheleſſe a little after the aduancement and progresse of our Christian religion, there was no country on the earth that produced greater Doctors of the Church than it, witnes Tertullian, Optatius, Lactantius, Saint Cyprian and Saint Augustine. After the same maner in the time of the Roman cõmon-wealth, no nation was euer more estranged from good letters then Germany, which both at this instant, and for

for six or seuen score yéeres past hath béen séen to flourish in all kind of studies. And I may say, for it is true, that as Monarchies, so learning and sciences change their habitation, according to the diuersitie of seasons. Which is the reason why at first they flourished amōg the Caldeans, then in Egypt from thence they took their course into Greece, and lastly vnto Rome. Afterwards we hauing béen possessed for many hundred yeares, together with a continuall barbarisme, they came at length to soiourne part in Italy and Germany and part in France and England, where as yet they make their abode. And all this by a certain reuolution of things, which is the cause that in some ages, we sée armes to prosper in a countrey, and then againe letters. Thus hauing briefly shewed you, that euery nation is capable of Arts and Sciences, according to the diuersitie of occurrences, I will leaue you to a consideration of my reasons, and my selfe very readie to be commanded by you, vpon all occasions.

An excellent and extraordinary letter of Commendation.

To my approued deare friend,
Mast. &c.

SIr, in that I know you to be an enemie of complement, I will write as plainly as may be, to the end my meaning may the better appeare vnto you, which peraduenture couered with the vaile of Art would be the harder for you to conceiue. This gentleman M, V. is a friend of mine, and desiring to be receiued into the number of your seruants, he hath entreated me to become the meanes of it. Wherupon comparing his me-

rit

eit with pure iudgement, no perswading my selfe that with one office I may satisfie 2 debts, one of duty to you, the other of affection to him. I am very well contented to vndertake it. Now because I know that in the election of friends, you & I are as it were of one cast. I assure my selfe you will iudge him worthy your friendship and my commendation. I will not speake of what you are to doe for him: for you shall no sooner know him, but you will think you should doe more for him than he will require. Howsoeuer, vntill he haue obtained that which he desireth, I meane so to oppresse you with entreaties, that my importunitie shall beget his satisfaction: and I hope you will not take it in euill part, for as much as you know, that a man is only to intreate for himselfe, but for his friend he is both to intreat and importune. When for mine own particular I shall haue occasion of that fauour, which so many times heretofore hath obliged me vnto you it shall be then that I will vse that modestie, which the loue I iustly beare to so worthy a friend as N.N. doth make me now to forget: although I will neuer forget to commend you and all your affaires vnto him, in whose hand is all prosperity to giue.

A gratefull acceptation of a friendly gift, with modest refusall of things, exceeding either the giuers meanes, or the receiuers merit.

SIr, I haue receiued your letters, as well furnished with good aduise and counsell, as with good will and affection, and I am not a little glad we both simpe so well together in opinion. that you are perswaded that that which is for your profit and seruice, will be also for my commodity and good. If by many other waies I

had not made experience of your friendship this would be an approoued argument vnto me of it. Now I shall goe with a farre better will seeing my selfe carried by your direction. I humbly thanke you, for the present it hath pleased you to send me, worthy indeed the greatnesse of your minde but not my desert: for there is no particular gaine shal make me dissemble that which I am bound to tell you, and that is, how you are to take care not to extend your liberality beyond the limit of your means, and that in seeking to supply your friends, you doe not wrong your selfe. Weigh but your fortunes with my merit, and you will finde that so great a gift doth neither belong to your ability nor my condition. I would not haue you so bountifull vnto me, as that thereby you should want meanes, to be so vnto others of more vertue and worth, for so I should shewe my selfe more a friend of mine owne profit, then your reputation. What could you offer to one that indeede were worthy, if you thinke this but a trifle for me, that am of so little value. We should so giue as we may alwayes haue wherewithall to giue, and so well manage the gates of liberality, that they may neither open nor shut to any. With all thankefulnes I accept of your gelding, which comes very fit for the iourney I haue in hand: but the money I haue returned backe againe to the fountaine of your bounty, that there may not lacke water for those that deserue it better then I, and that (it may be) are more athirst. If you come not hither before my departure, I will be with you allone as conueniently I may, to acknowledge some part of those many fauours I continually receiue at your hands. In the meane time I wish your fortunes answerable to your free and generous disposition.

An earneſt diſſwaſion from a cruell and couetous courſe of life.

SIr, the affection that I beare you is the onely cauſe to make me ſo deſirous of your good, as preſently I am. Reputation (me thinkes) is one of the principall and chiefeſt happineſſes we enioy in this world, & eaſie to get, as hard to keepe. With theſe ſe we liues then I purpoſe to doe rather the office of a friend, then of a flatterer, & no whit to diſguiſe the truth vnto you, deſiring you as from a true & honeſt friend to take this aduertiſement, which ſhal bring you it not much commodity; at leaſt wiſe much honour and credit, and I doubt not if you haue that iudgment yet remaining, which I haue promiſed to my ſelfe out of the ability of your ſpirit, but you will acknowledge that euery petty honour is to be preferred to the greateſt profit. It appertaines to the office, not of a meane creature but of a cruell and meritable man, to follow that profeſſion you doe, by ſeeking the death of men, and conuerting into their ruine that eloquence which nature for the good of the liuing hath ſo liberally imparted vnto you, and I knowe it cannot be done without great offence vnto God. Who though he be very Iuſtice it ſelfe, yet as ſingular and vnſpeakeable mercy, he enclines more to pitty and pardon, then to paine and puniſhment. And how can you without offence of his diuine maieſty ſo often call into iudgement, the life (it may be) of the innocent. Retire your ſelfe from this courſe, and applying your wit (the gift of God and nature) to a better vſe, make more account of reputation then wealth, which indeed is the only motiue that caries you therunto. For if you pleaſe, you cannot want many other good meanes both for the one and the other.

I am constrained euen out of friendship, hearing the bad & infamous report that goes of you euery where, and that to accompanied with the danger of your life, to write thus plainly vnto you. I should be very glad if it could draw you from so detestable a practise, and restore you your wonted reputation. Otherwise I pronounce you vnworthy of our friendship, and desire the world should know that I loued you no longer then I saw you walking in the way of vertue. And so I bid you farewell.

An expostulation of vnkind misconceits and iealousies in friendship.

SIr, your wisedome well known of all, and approued vnto many, with the experience I haue made of it, would neuer haue suffered me, to beleiue that which was ofte deliuered to me by the letters of my friends had I not vnderstood as much by the last I receiued from you, more fraught with choller then reason. I cannot imagine how a man of such knowledge, & more iudgement, brought vp in Court, and continually employed in affaires should be carried to an opinion of me so farre from truth, and the bent of my disposition, which hath euer been most destroys to make good vnto the world in what esteeme I haue alwayes held the friendship of so worthy a Gentleman as your selfe. You may be perswaded then I neuer committed any thing against you, which might any way offend the reputation of an honest and vertuous man, and thereof I wish no better testimony then mine own thoughts. Of all actions some be voluntary, and some necessary. If my will then haue neuer drawn me to offend you, nor any necessity how great soeuer it was, would euer permit me to wrong our ancient friendship, would you

haue

haue me giue credit to the perfidious and wicked im-
pression of men, or (by your fauour) to some light and
inconsiderate suspition that possesseth you, rather then
to mine owne conscience. May sir, be assured I am
your friend, and that I deserue you should be mine
yet more then you are, desiring you that herein you
will neither doe iniury to the integrity of my nature,
nor your owne discretion, vnlesse that (weary of me,
and oppressed with my vnseruiceableness and inutili-
ties) you will make this occasion to cleare your hands
of me, which at all times would appeare most vniust
by your iudgement and my desert.

Consolation for the death of a Brother or other friend.

GOod Sir, I feare this letter will worke effects
contrary to my desire, and in stead of drying vp
your teares, raise vp new stormes of heauinesse in vs:
but vpon discourse of your brothers so vnexpected and
much to be lamented death, I haue put of the doing of
this office vntill now, as well in regard of the great-
nesse of mine owne sorrow, which would not suffer me
to write, as also in that I intended a conuenient time
when as the extremity of yours should be so qualified,
that it might giue way to that little comfort I desire
to minister vnto you. But how should I offer you
comfort, when I haue as much or more nede of it
then you your selfe: For if he were your brother, he
was my very deare and singular friend: if he were kind
to you, he was much more to me: for his affection to
you was deriued from nature and blood, but to me out
of election and will. He alwaies embraced you with an
extraordinary respect, because he was thereunto bound
but vpon me, he conferred all offices of loue and libera-

lilie which I neuer deserued. Let vs then with one consent lament our infinite losse, & not onely ours, but euery mans that delighted in vertue and honor. Woe gentleman! when he was in greatest expectation of gathering the fruite which his vertue had promised him like a fresh and new blowne rose, euen in the entrance to his last dayes, to bee cut off by the vnluckie hand of vntimely death; howbeit, this is no little comfort, that he departed this world with the hope he had giuen his friends of his vertues, with the fruit whereof he was a debtor to his parents, with the honour he expected from his coūtry, & with the good he had promised all good men, leauing nothing behind him but sorrow and teares, & a desire alwaies to bewaile him, alwaies to wish for him. He that loued him not, neuer knewe him: he that knew him, and was not sorry for him, had neither sense nor humanity. But what do I meane to be caried away thus by griefe from my purposed end: Let vs leaue all sorrow, and rather enuious of his felicitie, then moued with his losse, let vs reioyce at his fortune. He hath paid the debt which he ought vnto nature, & the soner it was, the better was his happe. For happie is he that by an impetuous, but prosperous gale is speedily driuen into the desired port, the he that arriues there with a long & tedious raine. And he that knew this life was but lent him of nature, liued so, as he was not vnwilling to die; if he may be said to die, that is gone out of darknes into light, that leaues paine for pleasure, & puts off mortalitie to become immortall. Wherein could the fauour of God appeare vnto him more, then in taking him out of the troubles and calamities of this wicked world, before he should know the dangers of times, the sorrow of age, and the many mischiefes that continually attend on this miserable life of ours? And wel was it foreséen of his nature, that seeing it selfe cloyed with the false & transitory

ftory pleasures of the earth, for to be possessed of the true & euerlasting ioyes of heauen, made him leaue vs, euen then whē in the very prime & flourish of his yeers he had attained to as much honour and fame, as man with long trauell of body and minde could in all his life time acquire. But why Sir, doe I take all this paines to find out meanes of consolation for you, that with much more eloquence and vnderstanding is better able to comfort me, and that with more courage and conſt mey knowes how to beare this brunt of fortune? I will therefore cease to be a further trouble either to you or my selfe, & wish this comfortable assurance end, that as reioycing in his glory, he is now assuredly liuing in heauen, so shall the memorie of his vertues haue an eternall being in the speech of men.

A complement full of acknowledgment of courtesies receiued.

SIr, with many fauours, as continually you doe, you may augment my obligation; but you cannot adde any thing to the loue I beare you, or the desire I haue to doe you seruice: for neither the one nor the other can be greater: And would the time could accommodate me as well with meanes to satisfie the debts, as it giues you occasiō to encrease them. I am indebted to you much, & my abilitie is very small, but it shall be better, if like a rich man and liberall creditor you will be contented to take kind words and the good affection of an honeſt heart in payment of your courtesies. I haue receiued M. G. his Letter, which you sent me: vnto whom (if you please) returne the inclosed answer:

answere: wish that one office you shall gratifie two friends, and of them two if it were possible, make me alwaies more ready then I am.

To be commanded by you,

A graue intercession to a father for a sonne that hath offended: with friendly testimony of his hopefull towardnesse.

To my reuerend friend M, &c.

SIr, the friendship which hath been betwixt vs from our youth, commands me to write the present, for to aduertise you how your sonne R doth euery day more & more apply himselfe to the course you desire of his studies. I would not beleeue that which my boyes reported of him, but sounded him my selfe vpon the sudden in his lesson. And if the hunters saying be true, that the Deare is knowne by his tract, I will promise you as much contentment from him as you wish. Wherefore I would counsel you (forgetting matters past) hereafter to embrace his actions, like a loving father. All that I labour in, is to become caution to you both: to you, that he shall be so good a sonne, that as in age, so in well doing he shall goe before the rest of his brothers and sisters: to him, that henceforward you shall fauour him, not only as your eldest, but as your best beloued. It is no small victory for you, to haue subdued and reduced him according to your desire, to study after he had for a time followed armes, whereunto he seemed to be naturally enclined: neither was it a lesse victory for him to haue subdued himselfe for to obey you. And in

truth

truth you reape no little commodity by his fault, in that now you know how good a sonne you haue. Such as in the holy Scripture were sinners, and afterwards truely repented them, were no lesse esteemed of God: nay, many times more then those which had not sinned at all. I will not stand vpon any application, but commending both it and my selfe vnto you, very kindly take my leaue.

A short complement vpon the receit of some new courtesie.

SIr, I haue receiued the Greyhound you sent me, wherwithall I am as much pleased, as he was kindly deriued: although I must confesse, that receiuing him, I was somewhat ashamed, by reason I thought this courtesie did vpbraide mee with my not acknowledging as yet in action, how much I am your seruant in will. But howsoeuer, I thanke you very kindly for him, and with such affection, as he that amongst your friends most desireth to appeare, how ready hee is alwaiest o vndergoe your commandements, and commend your liberalitie, as much as all your other vertues are aboue all your like generally commended. And so for this time I humbly take my leaue.

Excuse for too rare writing: vrging withall the prosecution of some businesse: and vpon occasion of the death of a friend, the election of another in his stead.

SIr, you may perceiue by my former, that although I am your debtor for many Letters, yet am I no-

thing behinde to you in good will; and the more my slacknesse is in that, the more is my readinesse to serue you in great matters. I am to desire you to second the request I haue made vnto *M. H.* your Vncle, and my very good friend, concerning the businesse whereof I haue now written to him, which is very easie for him, and without meanes impossible for me to effect. The death of *M. P.* your kinsman very much troubled mee at the first, but I consider that with glory and reputation hee hath satisfied God, his Prince, and the debt which he ought vnto nature. And no doubt but hee is now at peace in heauen, whereas we amidst the troubles and corruptions of the world, are continually tossed with the tribulations of this miserable life. And seeing it hath pleased God to take from me so good and faithful a friend, I beseech you to accept of the election I make of you in his stead, with such a minde and affection, to serue and honour you, as I haue alwaies carried towards him. May you be pleased then to receiue me into this degree, and though my qualities deserue it not, at least wise it appertaines to the innated courtesie of your disposition. I assure my selfe that the Letters here inclosed shall finde such a redresse as their directions require, and that you will be pleased (if the gentlemen be in towne) to returne their answers. I will say no more, but onely entreat you to loue me, and to write often vnto me, to the end that the gaine I make of you, may giue me lesse sense of the losse, I haue had of so deare a friend: and so very kindly bid you farewell.

Thanke-

Thankefull acceptance of a friendly counſell, aduiſing to follow (or ſerue) ſome great man: whence ariſeth an obſeruation of the cold recompence of ſeruices in theſe daies in compariſon of times paſt.

To my truely louing friend.

SIr, you were not out of reaſon when like a friend for to comfort me in my troubles, or rather indeed to poſſeſſe mee with that care which euery man ought to haue of the time to come, you told me I ſhould doe well to put my ſelfe into the ſeruice of ſome great perſonage, where you were perſwaded I ſhould be well entertained, and that the ſooner it were the better it would be, nothing being more precious, the time. Your counſell ſeemes to me without all queſtion no leſſe vertuous and wiſe, then worthy of our friendſhip; and I am fully reſolued to follow it. But the feare of not attaining that propounded end, is as it were, a berry croſſe to my reſolution. For the malice of the time is ſuch, that one is more deceiued in the recompence of ſeruices, then in any other practiſes whatſoeuer. Great men thinke that others inferiour to them in fortunes were expreſſely made for their only and particular reſpect, neuer conſidering that if they would put that fantaſticall opinion out of their heads, they ſhould with much more contentment be better ſerued. *M. Craſſus*, hauing many ſeruants, was alwaies very carefull of them, and with all gentleneſſe vſed them no worſe then his own children. One of the chiefeſt ſatisfactions that followed *Iulius Cæſar* in his end, was

that hee had well acknowledged the merit of his ſeruants. But the humor of theſe ancient vertues is now to ſeeke, and to ſerue with loſſe and preiudice is become euen a matter of neceſſity. Let not the ſpurre of your affection, then poſt me on ſo faſt to a ſeruice, that I repent mée but ſo late of my more haſt then good ſpéed. Neuerthelesſe, becauſe it is againſt my nature to be idle, I will doe as God ſhall put in my minde, hoping to méete with the fortune of ſome good *Craſſus*; and to that effect, let me be remembred in your prayers, as your proſperity ſhall daily finde a place for it in mine.

Vpon ſubmiſſion of a runnagate, and vnruly ſon, the kind father (vnder hand) commends him to the ſeruice of a worthy friend, vnder whoſe ſhelter, neceſſity had already driuen him.

To my very Honourable friend, Sir *M. &c.*

SIr, hauing alwaies honoured and reſpected you among other my worthy friends, not onely for your vertues, but for a certaine kinde of I know not what obligation of nature which inuites mée thereunto, I perſwade my ſelfe that you haue alſo ſome inſtinct and naturall inclination of good will towards me. Whereupon I am drawne with the more boldneſſe to offer you a requeſt I very much deſire to obtaine. I am a father: when I ſay father, you may withall imagine the tyranny which nature exerciſeth ouer me in fauor of my children. It hath pleaſed God to giue me fiue ſonnes, of the which I had deſtined the third to the ſeruice

nice of the Court: but as it commonly falls out, that fathers purpose courses for their children, and they dispose of them contrary to their mindes, so it happened, that he whom I spake of stole out of *England* without my knowledge, about three moneths agoe, and crossing into *France*, came at length to *Paris*, where his meanes failing him, hee hath bethought himselfe, and begins to represent the parable of the prodigall childe, vnto his father, which I am very well contented to accomplish. He hath craued pardon of mee by Letters, and by the same meane interposed the authority of a kinsman of mine, one *E. E.* a Gentleman of quality, who hath been these two yeeres abroad in trauell. I vnderstand hee hath done his duty vnto you, and that you haue kindly entertained him, vpon knowledge that hee was my sonne. Now since his fortune hath carried him thither, I shall humbly intreat so much fauor of you, as to take him into your seruice, with no other priuiledge then as one of the meanest in your house. So doing, you shall get two seruants at once, the one there with you in *Paris*, and the other to receiue your commandements in *England*. If you can be pleased to satisfie me herein, I wish hee should thinke it were done not at any instance of mine, but only out of your gentlenesse, seeing him reduced to that extremity which in my iudgment he is in, whatsoeuer shew hee makes. I hope if you vouchsafe to do him this honour, being in such a schoole, his debauch will turne to his good. But howsoeuer, my intreaties runne, they shall be alwaies limitted with that saying of Cicero, *Quod quomodo tuo facere possis.* I make no question, but that there are others that presse you with such suites, but none that haue so much desire to doe you all seruice, as my selfe.

Excuſe for not comming to gratulate a friends returne: with proteſtation and compariſon of affection with the forwardeſt.

To my worthy reſpected friend, M. &c.

SIr, it would haue bæne a point of my duty to haue come in perſon for to haue welcomed you home. But ſæing my affaires will not permit it, I haue ſent the preſent to ſupply that office, and to let you vnderſtand, that albeit, there be many which for their vertuous qualities doe better deſerue your loue, yet in regard of my affection, and the continuall deſire I haue to ſerue and honour you, there is none more worthy of it than my ſelfe. And though you are to hope for more riches of ſpirit and fortune from them, than from the pouerty of my vnderſtanding and eſtate: yet are you not to preferre their friendſhip vnto mine. For if they outreach me in merit, I will goe beyond them in good will, and if the abilities of their minde be more, the ſincerity of their heart ſhall be leſſe. But herein you are to entreat the liberall, who with a franke and gentle will, imparts of his fauours to euery neceſſity, not as a Vſurer, to make profit of them, but onely out of a kind and generous diſpoſition; So it is, then you ſhould be affected towards me, without any expectation of other aduantage by it, then my ſeruice; and you are to do it the rather, in that you fæle your ſelfe ſo noble, rich and vertuous, that whatſoeuer you can deſire or wish for in another, is aboundantly in your owne poſſeſſion, and you haue as little nëd of forraigne vertues, as the Sea hath of the water of little riuers. Hereupon I will leaue to be a further trouble vnto

you,

you, but not to assure you, that I desire to liue no longer then I shall desire

To serue you.

Thankefull acknowledgement of kindnesse vnto ones Sonne.

SIr, the fauours you haue lately done me, are of such effect and merit, that I shall neuer be at quiet, till I haue made some requitall of them. I am ashamed you should be thus troubled with this son of mine, whom I haue charged to obey you in all things as my selfe, and I pray you doe so much as haue an eye vnto him, as if you were his father. I thanke you very kindly for the apparell you haue made him, and the money you haue paid for him: you may accommodate him with the rest of it as you shall thinke good. For, for my part, I giue you all power ouer him, seeing you are pleased to take the trouble vpon you, and so wishing but to méete with some good occasion to acknowledge how much I am beholding vnto you, I commit you to God.

A priuate taxation of the publike ingratitude of the great persons toward such as haue best deserued of them.

SIr, Whereas you think it strange that I write no oftner vnto the Lady you wot of: I haue alwaies told you, and now tell you againe, that which I was wont to say of great Lords, at such time as they deserued it at my hands, that I remember their greatnes and reputation no longer, then they are mindefull of

my

my necessities. He that makes no reckning of me, teaches me to neglect him, and he that looks vpon me with respect, giues me occasion and desire to serue him: so that I alwaies goe as others goe, and no otherwise. You may alledge the many commodities of their fauour and countenance, and I may answer that it were a riddle thing for me to trouble my head with a matter I am not sensible of: *Dovt des, faciovt facias*; saies the loue of Lawyers; but hauing done so many seruices, and neuer receiued so much as a taste of liberality, is the composition of a water able to quench the fire of an hundred *Ætnaes*, much more to discourage me, that otherwise am most ready by all offices of courtesie to keepe the good will of such as please to honour me with their friendship, of which number, to you, as to one of the most especiall, with all affection I commend mee, and bid you farewell.

Excuse for not saluting a friend passing by vs: endeauouring (by the way) to wipe away his imputation of pride, and of forgetfulnesse.

SIr, you told my Cousin, that either I was growne proud, or had forgotten you, because I passed along by you the other day, and did not speake. Now this I perceiue was the cause, why you came not along with the rest of the company to honour mee with your presence. But you shal vnderstand, that when I met you, I was so farre out of patience with the ingratitude of a wicked friend, which was newly parted from me, that I continued a whole weeke together without the remembrance, not only of you, but my selfe: which together with the knowledge you are to haue of my natu-

rall

rall humours, may sufficiently excuse mée to either of your opinions. Besides, I could not forget a Gentleman well derived, happily married, living with all modesty of his owne, a friend to every man, not meddling nor making with any, and that is contented with his estate, loues vertue and the vertuous, passeth away his time with choice of good company, is perfect in minde and memory, but of bodie (to my great griefe) lames what weake and indisposed. Now iudge, Sir, whether I remember you or no, and be no longer perswaded that either I am proud or forgetfull of you: whose many courtesies haue bound me to be alwaies

Your affectionate friend and seruant.

A sad commemoration of some worthy friend deceased.

To my singular good friend, M. &c.

SIr, the griefe of my kinsmans death hath gotten so much interest in my apprehension, that the comfort I was wont to giue vnto others, is not able now to doe my selfe any seruice. Reason dissuades mée from sorrow, and sense prouokes mée to teares: my power is small, the frailtie of the flesh great. I desire to obey vnto the one, the other I cannot resist: so that in the sedition of so many contrarieties, I neither vnderstand nor see any thing may content me. In regard of him I haue no cause to complaine: hée led the life of a good man, and died the death of the righteous: for as the Roman Orator saith, It is hard to liue well, and die ill. But for my part, I haue as much reason to la-

ment, as his vertues were without number and end. Howbeit, for mine owne particular, I should grieue, whereas for his, I am much to reioyce, I shall be thought rather enuious of his good, then a friend of his happinesse. I assure my selfe also that you take no pleasure in the death of so courteous and worthy a Gentleman, nor in the losse you haue made of one, that for your owne good parts, and my sake, loued you as a friend, and respected you as vertuous. But not to be a cause either of more trouble to you, or heauinesse to my selfe, I will cease to speake further of him, and commmending you to God, very kindly take my leaue.

A gratefull acknowledgement of an especiall fauour from any great man.

To my very Honorable good Lord, the Lord, &.

MY LORD, I haue receiued the commendations you were pleased to send mee by my brother C. than the which there is no fauour I could more desire. Henceforward, I shall begin to thinke better of my selfe, seeing so honorable & noble a person hath thought mee worthy of a place in his remembrance: which in truth was more requisite for a continuance of your goodnes, then for any merit at all of mine. Howsoeuer I giue your Lordship as humble thanks for it as possibly I may, albeit, I am perswaded that neither with words nor effects, I shal euer be able to satisfie so great an obligation. This fauour hath cleared me of some doubt I was in, for that I receiued no answer to the letter I wrote not long since, in congratulation of your

Lord-

Lordships so deserued aduancements, together with an humble preseruation of my seruices: but now I perceiue the cause of it proceeded either from the fault of your Secretary, or the negligence of the Post, being alwaies well assured, that no greatnesse whatsoeuer could elate your minde more then it would be dejected by any aduersity the worst of time could bring. I haue nothing to adde hereunto, but an humble entreaty, that as you were pleased to remember me with your commendations, so you would vouchsafe to honour mee with your commandements, thereby to giue action to the desire I alwaies haue of appearing vnto the world, how much I am

Vnfainedly deuoted to your seruice.

A short and sweet consolation in the death of friends.

SIr, as soone as I vnderstood of the death of *M. C.* I began to thinke of you, and how many times I had said to my selfe, seeing you alwaies in company together, like the signe of *Gemini*, behold an example of true and perfect friendship: But since it hath pleased heauen to diuide you: I would wish you to beare it with patience, and be comforted. For we are not to grieue at who goes first or last in the way that euery man is to take, by a necessity of nature. The world is a residence lent vs by the good pleasure of God, & he that continues least in it, is the longer liuing in happinesse. For death doth determine in life, so soone as a righteous Spirit doth leaue that prison, wherein all the miseries, imagination can reach vnto, are inclosed: what is

here to be ſeene here vpon earth, but enuy, iniuſtice, ambition, ſtrife, but good manners corrupted into barbarous conditions, children and griefe, to rich a care to poore parents, and a deſire for to haue vnto thoſe that haue none? What is there to be ſeene but peace ingendring warre, warre ſhedding blood, ſouereignty a prey to ſuſpition, ſuſpition the ſlaue of miſery and deſpare, powertie deſpiſed, riches detracted, youth puffed vp with rage and inſolencie, and age oppreſſed with infirmitie and diſeaſes? Wherefore the beſt is not to be at all or not to be long in the way, prouided that it all proceed from the good will of God, whom I humbly beſeech to giue you that comfort and content I alwaies wish you.

A modeſt complaint, extenuating our owne deſert in any fauour done to our friend, acknowledging all to be but duty.

Sir, I ſee no reaſon, why by your letters you ſhould thanke me for the pleaſures you ſay, you haue receiued of me, vnleſſe it be to encourage me that haue beene but ſlack that way heretofore, to do better hereafeter. To ſay the truth, it proceeds from no merit of mine, but from a courteſie that was borne with you, and will accompany you to your graue. For, for my part, I do not thinke one can be beholding to a man for doing his dutie. If you pleaſe, then, you ſhall not put your thankes vnto account, but turne them into commandements vpon him that will alwaies moſt gladly employ himſelfe for you and yours, induced therunto,

to, both by the friendſhip that hath euer béene betwixt vs, and a thouſand other particularities, the recitall whereof would but waſte time and paper. And whereas you write that you feare you are troubleſome vnto me, conſidering the greatnes of my affaires: the greateſt trouble I can haue, is when I ſhal not be troubled for you, if at any time you haue occaſion to vſe mée, as ſhall be approued to your experience, in all matters where the leaſt of my abilities may doe you ſeruice.

A gentle and eaſie ſubmiſſion to ſome new direction, or alteration of our commiſsion.

To the right Honourable my ſpeciall good Lord and Maſter, the Lord, &c.

My Honourable Lord, your laſt of the fourth of *July*, came not before this morning to my hands, Wherby I vnderſtand the change of your mind concerning my voyage into *France:* and although for mine own particular I could haue wiſhed it otherwiſe, yet reaſon perſwades me to be contented, aſſuring my ſelfe, that this reuocation is deriued from ſome better reſolution. Wherfore I had rather my deſires ſhould want their end, then your pleaſure, that your Lordſhip may alwaies know, I hold more of moderatie and diſcretion, than of appetite and will, and that mine owne ſatisfactions are nothing to the reſpect of your greatneſſe and ſeruice. Aſſoone as I receiued your diſ-

patch, I began to negotiate about the other matter, and by the next, your Lordship shall vnderstand what may be done. In the meane time, and euer, remaine

Your Honours very humble and faithfull seruant.

Recommendation of a forward Sonne to the fauour and enrertainment of some famous Captaine in the warres.

SIr, albeit, it were reason that your not knowing me, should kéep you from the trouble of my letters, yet since it hath pleased Sir *William N.* to recommend my sonne vnto you, I thought I should haue wronged my dutie, if I had not accompanied him with the présent. I haue destined him to the warres, and hée hath béene about some thrée yéeres abroad in trauell, during which time, hée hath giuen himselfe vnto diuers noble exercises, well befitting his profession. At his returne I thought if hée could receiue so much honour as to be fauoured by you, hee might facilitate a way for the time to come, which euery good and valiant minde is to propound vnto it selfe. And because I know that you are the example of vertue, not onely in the subiect of Armes, but in euery other; I beséech you to respect him as a sonne of a father, that exceedingly desires to find a place in the number of your humble and most deuoted seruants.

A Complement most officious and affectionate to a Lady concerning som serious affaires of hers.

To the Noble and euery way excellent Lady, the Lady, &c.

MAdam, I had rather effects should testifie the desire I haue to doe you seruice, than the courtesie of that good gentleman, *M.B.* for so should I both serue you, and satisfie my selfe, whereas by the other, neither of vs reaps any commoditie at all. You are no way beholding to me, for sollicitting my Lord of *N.* or putting Sir *George L.* in minde of your affaires. For to the one you haue no nede of recommendation, nor to the other of remembrance. The former (according to his noble inclination) much respects you, and desires your honour and profit as much as his owne: and the other, as well to gratifie my said Lord, as for his particular obligation to your Lordship, wisheth for nothing more than occasion to doe you pleasure. It is not therefore in so small a matter as that I desire to obey you, but in things of such difficulty, as may shew how I am euen courteous of receiuing your commandements.

I will say no more at this time, but wish my prayers could obtaine you such fortunes as your vertues deserue, and then I am sure you should be no lesse than Empresse of the world. Onely as I was making vp the present, this inclosed paper came to my hands, which I haue sent you as a thing, I know, you would very faine see. After you haue read it, I must intreat,

for

for some reasons, it may be committed to the custody of the first: and so in all duty and affection I kisse your hand.

By the humble servant of your commandments.

A pleasant *Ironie*, in commendation of Law, and the commodity of Law Suites.

To my dearely beloved brother, M. &c.

GOod brother, I would never have thought that a suite in law could have brought so many blessings with it as it doth. Are you slothfull and lazie: make no doubt but you shall finde matter enough to keepe you from idlenesse: you need no better a raiser of you up in a morning, than a suite. Are you proud and disdainfull: I warrant you shall have sufficient cause to court not onely the Judges, but your Counsell and Attorney, nay by my faith their very Clerks. If of a dull and heavie disposition, you shall meet with store of invention, how to keepe you out of your enemies danger. If shamefull necessity will teach you rather to be impudent than otherwise. If covetous, no help for it in the world like this: for there is no commoditie in the land beates such a price as the Law doth. A man is to passe thorow so many hands, and every finger catcheth somewhat. Besides, for the desire we have to obtaine our ends, we never think what it will cost us, till we come to the bottome of our purses. I am sure I have made deare experience of all this. And they are great blessings

things I muſt néds ſay, but God kéepe you from them. Well, I haue talked enough, it is time for mé now to tell you in good earneſt, that I thinke there is no paſſion more eager, or that fills our heads ſo full of proclamations as this doth. I will not except the three torments of our ſpirit, loue, ambition, and auarice: for in this there is a mixture of the two laſt, accompanied with a deſire of reuenge, which produceth very maruellous effects in vs. The Italian ſaith, that no man knowes what pleaſure it is to be reuenged, but he that hath receiued the iniury.

A pretty controuerſie compounded in a witty complement.

SIr, I know not whether I ſhould excuſe the ſlackneſſe of my pen, or accuſe your negligence. For my part, the trouble of my continuall employment, well knowne both to you and euery man, may fully cleare me of this fault: but the leaſure and good commodity you alwaies haue to write, cannot free you from blame. Neuertheleſſe, not to caſt away our money in ſuits, which you know are euerlaſting, full of hazard, and ſubiect to the inconſtancie, ambition and wickedneſſe of the moſt part of the Lawyers of theſe times, I am contented to ſtand to the iudgement of your owne conſcience; or if you will, like good Merchants that haue cleared accounts, let vs make generall releaſes, ſo that neither ſhall remaine debtor to the other. But if you will néds go to Law, I am agréd: for hauing reaſon for my atturney, and truth for counſell in my cauſe, if by the power of bribes you corrupt not the Iudges, I doubt not but to haue a verdict of my ſide. Now of theſe two waies, I leaue the beſt to your elec-

tion luring you, that albeit you haue ouercome me with offices of courtesie, yet haue you not gone beyond me either in loue or iudgement, to know that I owe more to your good, then euer I shall be able to furnish. But if an honest minde alone could serue for payment of so many obligations, make account I should easily satisfie greater debts then these. Whereupon I inuoke the grace of time that may bring me some such opportunitie, as may thoroughly approue the sincerities of my heart to your experience. In the mean space, let mee intreat you to giue mee occasion to doe you seruice: for I cannot receiue a commandement from any friend vnto whom I more desire to obey then your selfe, with the assurance whereof I will heere conclude, and commit you to God.

A briefe answer to a bitter complaint vpon false ground.

SIr, I am sorrie for the wrong you doe your selfe in complaining of mee without cause. I thought wee should haue seene you heere in the Countrey ere this, and it grieues mee you came not, as well in regard I haue lost the occasion to giue you the entertainment of my house, as that I might haue freed you from this passion of profit, which so detaines you from discerning the truth. But since I cannot doe in person, you are to vnderstand by this paper, that I haue nothing to doe now in the Office where you are assigned the paiment of your pension. I haue past it ouer vnto another who can giue you satisfaction, if hée will. Wherefore you haue no reason to say you will complaine of me

seeing

seing I haue done nothing but that I should. If this will not content you, within seuen or eight daies at the farthest, I shall be at London, where we may meet, and conferre more at large of matters. In the meane time commending me vnto you, I commit you to God.

An earnesse and elegant intreaty, importuning the assistance of some friend in any matter of importance, and that with expedition.

To my honourable frriend, Sir Henry T.

SIr, I will beginne with the saying of Plato and Marcus Cicero, because I perswade my selfe that the authoritie of such personages, & the efficacy of their words will be of more power and esteeme with you than mine: although to incite you to any office of courtesie: whereunto a naturall addition makes you forward enough of your selfe, I cannot thinke there is neede of more then a bare and simple intreatie. Man (say they) is not borne for himselfe alone, but for his Country, for his parents, for his friends, & for all other men. And euen as nature, the vniuersall mother of all things created, doth not produce so many kindes of beasts, herbes, trees, fruites, mettalls and stones for her selfe onely, but freely imparts vnto vs of those her riches: so we that are to imitate her liberalitie, must not be sparing of those abilities and meanes which either fortune or our owne vertue hath acquired vs for the good and reliefe of others. This being so, I cannot doubt that you, in whom is such a concurrence of excellent parts, will

be wanting to the necessitie of my present affaire. And albeit the quality of my deserts, the integrity of my heart, the respect of my services, and other points appertaining to the iudgement of liberalitie, cannot induce you thereunto, yet let the loue and obedience I haue euer borne you, supply all other defects. But that my Letters may not runne out all in preface, nor you be wearied with the long narration of a matter well enough knowne to you already, I will referre the rest to the sufficiency and truth of M. H. For seeing you vnderstand my occasion, I must hope you will be pleased to take order for it, with as much facility and very commodiously you may. And because that obtaining this grace, if withall expedition be not made, it would be as good as time lost: may it please you, hauing taken vpon you the one, to vndergoe the trouble of the other, which will be of that import in my behalfe, that be assured I will be your perpetuall debtor for it, notwithstanding any satisfaction in the world I can euer be able to make. Sir *Richard G.* in the exercise of this fauour, as in all other generous actions, will not faile to second you, since I am so desirous to doe very humble seruice to you both: and to you especially, may that with all honour, respect, and as much affection, as I earnestly beseech the Almighty to adde many yeares of prosperity to your present happinesse.

A kind quarrell of unkindeſſe with a friend for leauing vs vnſeene and vnſaluted, hauing in a manner paſſed by our doore.

To my approoued good friend, M. Richard T.

My beſt friend, your departure from M. contrary to my hope, and your determination hath not ſo much diſpleaſed me, for the matter you know of, as in that you paſſed along to cloſe by mee, without taking poſſeſſion of a houſe, and that that depend on it, which is aſmuch at your commandement as the very thoughts of your heart, but eſpecially in that you let ſlip an occaſion to experience how much I deſire to acknowledge the many kindneſſes I haue receiued from you: Howbeit, ſeeing it was your pleaſure ſo to doe, theſe letters ſhall make faith of my good will, far readier to any thing that concernes your reputation or profit, than to write. By this time I beleeue you haue heard from my Gentleman, who if he will ſhew himſelfe ſo much my friend, as to make me ſue for my money, if it be ſo, I pray you tell him, I would not with him to giue mee occaſion, that whereas now I talke to him in priuate, I ſhould complaine of him in publike. For there is no reaſon I ſhould ſuffer preiudice by anothers ingratitude. I haue ſent you here incloſed the letter I haue written vnto him vnſealed, that yo may read it, and then make it vp, hoping notwithſtanding that you haue ſo preuailed with him, as he ſhall not need to ſee it. If you know any thing wherein I may ſerue you, I ſhall alwaies be more willing to obey, then you to command me. To the aſſurance whereof I leaue you, and my ſelfe to be

Euer truly your friend.

Intercession for fauour and remission in the behalfe of one that hath offended, and is vnfeignedly sorry for his fault.

SIr, not being able (as I had well hoped) to obtaine any fauour of my Lord, for the behalfe of the poore fellow, I thought good to haue recourse vnto your intercession for him. He is so penitent, and fully resolued to become a new man, that his good purpose of amendment in him, together, with the punishment of his indurance, is worthy not only of excuse, but of pardon for his fault. If heerein you doe that which I could not, you shall binde mée to a continuall endeauour to deserue it: and the time may come, my Lord may thanke you for the meanes you shall giue him to exercise mercy and gentlenesse, which would be comfortable to the many other noble qualities euer in him.

I send you here enclosed, the Latin verses, which by your commandement I haue apparelled in English, and that so, I assure you with the best clothes in my shop, but if they be not fitting to the greatnesse of their quality, I commend them to the Wardrobe of your most precious ornaments, and you to the protection of the Almighty.

To importune a friend to prosecute to perfection any businesse already begunne.

SIr, I finde so much difficultie in the officers about the paiment of the money, it hath pleased my Lord

to bestow on mee, that if you had not béne the mediator of this liberalitie. I feare I should haue gone without. Wherefore I beseech you, as before you were the meanes for the grant of it, so now you would be the meanes for the payment of it: Which wil be the easier for you to doe, in that the former depended on the wil of another, and this of your owne. I cannot be beholding to you for the one without the other, for it will be to no purpose, if they be not ioined together. I humblie intreat you then to doe it, as you are bound both to the goodnesse of your owne disposition still enclining to the aide of your friends, and to me that haue alwaies desired to doe you seruice, as also to the world vnto whom it is not vnknowne how much I haue euer loued and respected you. Let me not be deceiued in the hophe I haue alwaies had of your fauour, especially in a matter that will be verie preiudicall to mé, and no way pleasing to my Lord. I will not presse you further at this time, because I am perswaded that my entreaties cannot be of more power with you, then your owne iudgement, which knowes what is fit for you to doe, and necessarie for me to haue done: So that committing you to that readinesse of will I haue euer found you accompanied with in all my occasions, I rest,

Yours alwaies as ready

to serue you.

A particular account of ſundry buſineſſes, committed to ones care.

To the worſhipfull, my very good Maſter, M. R. S. &c.

SIr, may you be pleaſed to take account of ſuch commandements as you charged me withall at my comming vp: of the which to beginne with the money due from M. B. I haue receiued it in, and paid it ouer here, according to your direction in that caſe, to be repaid you againe in the countrey; for the other bonds that are in ſuite, your Atturney promiſeth that faithfulneſſe and care which both you expect, and he in dutie is to haue. M. R. is not yet in towne, for there is not my day, but I am at his lodging to enquire after him: to morrow or next day he is expected, and he ſhall be no ſooner come, but I will follow him very cloſe for a diſpatch of that buſineſſe. I know not well what to ſay to your ſuite with my Lord, euery day begets new difficulties, and I doubt ſome ſecret oppoſition from the partie you ſpake of when laſt you diſcourſed vnto me of this matter, and herein M. P. my Lords Secretary iumps with me in opinion, if it be ſo, he ſaith nothing will preuaile but your preſence, which if I ſhall finde to be needfull, I will aduertiſe you by the next. Of thoſe things which I am to buy for my Miſtreſſe ſo many as the time, and my other imployments would permit me to prouide, I haue ſent downe now by this bearer, the reſt God willing ſhall come along with the carrier,

Carrier. Here is no newes at all stirring but such idle stuffe as I would bee loth by a delivery of it to hold you from your serious and better employment.

Wherefore very humbly recommending my duty to you, and my good Mistresse, I cease to bee a further trouble, and rest

Always your humble

seruant.

A most Christian consolation of a friend in any crosse or affliction.

SIr, I cannot doubt but you are perswaded that the tribulations wherewithall wee are afflicted in this life, doe not proceede from chance or fatall destiny, but from a speciall providence of God, without the which, not so much as an haire can fall from any of our heads, as the Prophet Amos doth insinuate when he saith, There is no euill in the Citie which I haue not sent. This also is manifested in Iob, whom Sathan could not touch without permission first obtained for it. Afflictions are assured signes of election, so that if you obserue the whole course of the Scriptures, you shall finde that those whom God fauoured most, he alwayes gaue to drinke of the cuppe of his passion, witnesse Abel, persecuted by Cain, Isaac by Ismael, Ioseph by his brethren, Dauid by Absolon, and the children of Israel by Pharao. Out of a sensible consideration

whereof Saint Paul said. If we had no other hope in Jesus Christ, but in this present life, we might well say, we were the most miserable amongst men. But the worst that we endure is nothing in comparison of that which God himselfe endured: who though he created all things, was termed the sonne of a Carpenter, was persecuted, was slandered, was said to be a glutton, a drunkard, a lover of Publicanes and sinners, a wicked seducer, and one that in the name of Belzebub cast out Deuils. If we consider what he became for vs, we shall see him naked to cloth vs, a prisoner and in bonds to loose vs from the chaines of darknesse, and a sacrifice to purifie vs. We shall see his side opened to shut vp Hell for vs, we shall see those hands that made Heauen & Earth, pierced with sharpe nailes for the loue of vs, and his head crowned with pricking thornes to crown vs with glory. From his sorrow comes our ioy, from his infirmity our strength, from his death and buriall, our life and resurrection. Comfort your selfe then in the Lord, and with patience beare the Crosses which it hath pleased him to lay vpon you, for his arme is not shortned, but in his good time will either take you from these miseries, or these miseries from you. How many be there yet liuing in the world, whom oppressed with infinite calamities, every way forsaken, and vtterly voide of all hope of succour, he at length beheld with a mercifull eie, and hath placed them in a far better and more contented estate than euer they were in before. Wherfore trust in God, and say with that great and holy Martyr Ignatius Let fire, let hangmen, let beasts, and all the deuils in hell exercise their greatest fury on me, so that I may enioy the Lord my God, whom in all my prayers I will heartily beseech to giue you a speedy and happy issue out of all your troubles.

An

An earneſt recommendation of a well qualified ſeruant, to ſome place worthy of his part.

To my worthy and moſt reſpected friend M. &c.

SIr, as long as you ſhal be accompanied with a deſire to oblige me vnto you, by ſo many gentle offices of curteſie as continually you ſhew me, I ſhal neuer want boldnes to giue you occaſion ſtill to doe it: and the rather, becauſe I know not any vnto whom I would more willing be beholding then to ſo kinde & generous diſpoſition as yours. The preſent bearer Philip A. is more then ordinarily affected to your ſeruice, & knowing the loue and reſpect I beare you, is perſwaded that my interpoſure will not be a little auaileable in that behalfe, ſo that he hath very earneſtly entreated me out of my intereſt to make him a way to your fauour: and I haue vndertaken it, for that I make no queſtion but it will turn to his no little good, and your greater commodity. For he is a ciuill, diſcreet, and very honeſt young man, hee hath his Latin tongue perfect, ſpeaks Italian, is prettily ſeen in the French, writes faire two or three hands, ſings well, playes on the Vſall, & indeed is euery way better qualified than I deliuer him, as will appeare to your iudgement, vpon the examination you ſhall make of his parts, to the which I will referre him, and with

hee may no lesse exceede the hope I haue giuen you of him, then you the promise I haue made him of your goodnesse. If I haue as much power with you, as the world thinkes, and is due to the greatnesse and integritie of my affection, I doubt not but to heare ere it be long, that this commendation of mine is happily arriued at the port of desert: Howsoeuer, my entreaty should presse you further, were I not assured that you will thinke you are not to be importuned for one, that of himselfe is most worthy of regard, and your entertainement. Wherefore to make an end of my sute and your trouble, I will here giue end to the present, and alwaies be most destrous to doe you seruice.

An amorous complement vpon the first sight, or after some short parley.

SWeete Mistresse *F.* allone as it was my good hap to haue a sight of some of those many graces and perfections, which euery able iudgement doth not onely commend, but admire in you: I was not long in resoluing with my selfe, whether I should serue and loue a creature so rare and worthy to be desired. But I was longer in discoursing on the difference there is betweene your worth and my little value, with the small occasion you haue to regard me, considering I haue not beene yet so fortunate, as to meete with any opportunity that might furnish me with meanes to reuille vnto you, how much I am truly deuoted to your seruice. Neither could I so soone resolue, whether I might

might presume to discouer the hurt I receiued by the encounter of your beauties, and the affable patience which the other day you were pleased to accommodate vnto my rude and tedious discourse, whereas you deserued the entertainment of a farre more accomplished spirit. Neuertheless, relying on the greatnes and integritie of my affection, and the gwdnesse of your gentle disposition, I haue not feared in all humilitie to make an offer of that command and power which in so short a time you haue gotten ouer me, and which I very humbly beseech you to accept of: so shall you haue a seruant, that in all things will yéeld you as much obedience, as now with most zealous affection I kisse your faire and louely hand.

An earnest protestation of perpetuall loue and loyalty.

To my euer honoured Mistresse, Mistresse Iane H.

Dearest Mistresse, whensoeuer you can enter into any doubt of my loyaltie, thinke there is no truth remaining on the earth: for suspecting that, you call euen certaintie it selfe into question. I will alwaies be more readie to consent vnto the hate of my selfe, than the loue of any other beautie, which I know must be as farre inferiour to the perfection of yours, as yours is aboue all others worthy and admirable.

I beſeech you then to take this aſſurance of your ſlaue that all the power he can euer haue ouer his life and being, is altogether conſecrate to your ſeruice, and that Heauen neuer eſtabliſhed any thing more durable than his inclination to honour you with all the fidelitie and affection you can poſſibly deſire: ſo that the worſt of abſence, fate, or misfortune, ſhall ſerue but for better proofe, and experience of it: to the which in all humilitie I leaue you, and myſelfe to be nothing when I am not

Wholly and onely yours,

A ſad extaſie for the abſence of your Miſtreſſe.

To my truely loued Miſtreſſe, Miſtreſſe Mary S.

I Did alwayes thinke (worthy Miſtreſſe) that amorous paſſions had their effects more approaching to extreames than any other, and that whatſoeuer proceeded from them, could not be imagined by diſcourſe, The experience which now I ſo dearely make, fully aſſureth me of it. I haue onely taſted the pleaſure one receiues from the ſight of a thing truely beloued, and therby apprehend the perfection of content which the fruition yeldes. But I am at this inſtant ſo ſtrangely touched with griefe for the priuation both of the one and the other, that he that feeles it not, is not able to conceiue it, and he that feeles it is not able

able to expresse it. I digest it then with as much patience, as pleaseth necessitie, but yet exceedingly honoured in that I suffer for so rare and worthy a subiect, & liue, or rather entertaine the wearines of any life with so sweet a remembrance, and with the representation of so faire an Idea as yours. Prouided also, that you chace not mine altogether from your eyes, but let them see the image of your slaue so replenished with fidelitie in his seruitude, that it shal sooner falle in heauen than in him, And let not (I beseech you) your faire vnspotted soule, which alwayes hath produced actions elonged and cleare from the imperfections of other base and common spirits, be subiected to the ordinary effects of time and absence; but rather liue contented with affecting him that will die adoring you: vnto whom, as hitherto I haue, so I will euer be

The faithfullest of all

Seruants,

A Loue-letter, or the summe of Louers Rhetoricke, in two figures, *viz. Flattery* and *Fayning*.

To the most accomplished and rarely qualified Gentle-woman, Mistresse Iane H.

IF either the excellencies of your beautie were lesse, or they lesse knowne to you then I know they are,

are, I would not maruell (fairest of all faire) if the presumption of these lines should giue you cause of maruell. But where there is such an admirable concurrence of perfection as in your most accomplished selfe; I hold it impossible for any composition of mortalitie to be prosore against them: from whence I may well derive an assurance, that you cannot thinke it strange, if I say, (as indeede I truely may) that notwithstanding any opposition which by the ablest secōding of reason I could make, I finde my selfe but flesh and bloud, too weake a temper to withstand the vnresistable assaults of your prevailing eyes, prevailing I may well terme them, that in a moment haue not onely depriued me of my libertie, leauing me nothing free saue the zeale of an vnfeigned deuotion to your service; but reduced my will, and euery power of my soule vnder the subiection of such Lawes as shal please either your rigour or mercy to ordaine. Seeing then I can haue no other being but that which would be farre more wretched then wretchednesse it selfe, vnlesse you please to blesse it with the happines of your fauour: then let not the refusall of it (I beseech you) bee the cause of his death, that cannot, nay that will not liue without it, but conferre such compassion and regard on my sufferings, as the gracious sweetnesse of your innated goodnesse doth promise, and as is due to the infinitenesse of my affection: which for faith and loyaltie shal alwayes be incompatible of all comparison, and for constancy so vnmatched, that neither time nor fortune, which vnto al things vnder Heauen bring alteration and end, shall euer be of power to shake it with the least motion of change, or determine it sooner than the least instant of my breath. And this I vowe with as much resolution, as I humbly pray you would vouchsafe to let

me

me vnderstand how you please to dispose of your creature, who together with his life and fortunes is, and eternally will be

The very slave of your
Commandements.

Anohther of like Argument.

To the faire, but farre more vnkind Gentlewoman, Mistresse Elizabeth C.

HAd I any power left me (cruell beautie) ouer my desire, I could be contented to discourse alone with my selfe on the passion of my too wretched condition, without importuning so obdurat an heart, as yours, that vnwilling to free me, taketh pleasure to entertaine me in it: but since Ioue hath wholly reduced them vnder his lawes, and the subiection of your commandements: pardon me, I beseech you, if constrained by them, I haue recourse to your pittie, as the only meane I can hope for of deliuerance from the torment of my paines. And were it not proper to the sweetnesse of your disposition, yet you owe it vnto him that honoureth you more than all the world, that adoreth you as the onely marke of Diuinitie, which he acknowledgeth here below, that hath no life but by you, that desireth it not but for you; and to be so happy as to spend it in your seruice: whereunto I am so deuoted, that truth shall sooner faile in the ordinances of Heauen, than in this resolution of mine. Accept this my deuotion then, and ruling it by what lawes you please,

draw out of teare the proofes which eyther my life or death are able to giue you. And let not cruelty, that hath some limit euen in those to whom it is naturall, be the perpetuall staine of your faire vertues, nor permit mée to finde more grace in death, then in you; who grieued with my miseries, may rather end them by the end of my life, then you by the grant of your fauour, which only is of power to make me happiest, as without it I am now

The most vnhappiest
of men.

Another not vnlike.

O If all other, most cruell Mistresse, to my infinit griefe I finde, that no greater happinesse can arriue vnto wretched louers, than to méete with death howsoeuer they call for it. Vpon the writing of my last vnto you, I did not thinke the bearer at his returne should haue found mé aliue. And yet, alas! I liue still, but strangely grieued, because I cannot die, and that there is no hope of remedy for mée in any but in you, who, it seemes, taketh delight to entertaine me in torments. My teares wherewithall you see this paper all beblubbered, and my passions together, will not suffer me to say any more, but onely once for all to put my selfe vpon your mercy, from the which if speedily I receiue not comfort, euer after it will come too late. And this I protest, as farre from dissimulation, as I am neere vnto my end.

Another

A forme of writing Letters.

Auohther of the same.

To the sweet and vertuous Gentlewoman, Mistresse, &c.

GEntle Mistresse I. If I did thinke the enmity of your parets had as much interest in your thoughts, as love had in mine, I would rather dye to give you satisfaction, then live to be hated of a Gentlewoman whom I affect and honor more then all the world. But assuring my selfe that so sweet & accomplished a beauty as yours cannot be accompanyed with any such unfriendly disposition, as to wish ill unto him, that farre beyond all reach of apprehension is unfainedly devoted to your service, I presume to intreat you to have so much regard to your owne gentlenesse, and the compassion of my endurings as to grant me the favor of an accesse, that so I may have opportunity to acquaint you more at large with that, which I hope will redound to your contentment, and my infinite good. And me thinkes I should promise my selfe out of that more than ordinary respect and good countenance which of late it hath pleased you to shew me, at leastwise, if flattering my selfe, I doe not wrongfully apply that to my particular advantage, which is indifferently conferred on others, by the courtesie of your gracious nature. Howsoever, in all devotion I attend your resolution hereunto: and no lesse heartily beseeching the Almighty to continue you in his grace, than I desire

to liue and die in yours, I commit you to this assurance, that I am no longer mine owne, but

Altogether at your disposing.

Another no lesse earnest, though perhaps, lesse honest.

To the excellent in all beauty, beautious Mistresse Francis R.

SO long as I was able by any strength of reason, or other seconding whatsoeuer (fairest Mistresse R.) to make head against the violence of those passions, which for a long time together haue very strangely afflicted me, I neuer offered more than by lookes, to discouer them unto you, who onely are the cause of them, and onely can giue them remedie. But now that I find my ablest forces to be but a weake and vnprofitable resisting against the fury of my sufferings, which continualy assault me with such apprehensions of tormentes, that all the paines in the world put together, and compared with them, are but light and tolerable: Pardon mée, I humbly pray, if casting my selfe at the féete of your mercie, I presume with all the bowes of my soule to employ such commiseration of my case, as the present extremitie of it requires. If you looke vnto my deserts, I know them to be most vnworthy of the least regard. It is not upon them I must stand (for indeed, what merit can stand before the eminence of your worth) but if you deigne to descend so low as the consideration of your seruant, looke, I beseech you, with a pittifull and rewarding eie vnto the integritie

of

of my faith, the resolution of my constancie, the truth of my affection and the vnbounded zeale I leaue to the obedience of your commandement, these are they whereupon I build the hopes of your fauour, and that is it alone, whereunto all my wishes runne, there is nothing to be desired, so much desire, in regard of it the whole empire of the world should be of a very vile and contemptible respect with me. Vpon whom then can you better, or more worthily conferre it, then on him that holds it in so high an estimation, and that by all the duties of an humble, loyall, and truely deuoted seruice, will before all others whatsoeuer, euer seeke to continue you for his sweetest and gracious Mistresse (as I hope) and infinitly pray, you would be pleased to appeare vnto me in your returne hereunto. Vpon the expectation whereof, I haue vtterly disclaimed all other being, to be

Wholly your creature.

A seemely answer to such a Suitor.

To Master H.

SIr, if I carried as little respect to my Husbands good, as it appeares you haue of your owne safety, I might quickly take a course would proue as preiudiciall to you, as the lewdnesse of your presumption deserues. You very much mistake me, if you take me to be any of those, vnto whom it seems you make a common practice of such addresses, for by the grace of God I will alwaies be anie thing sooner, than a subiect fit-

ting for one of your filthy disposition. I marvell what should move you to assaile me in this sort: hath my behaviour beene so light (for sure I am, I never exchanged word with you in my life) or my looks so wanton to encourage you vnto it: No, I defie you, and all the world, on that regard. And I thinke if I should put it vpon your conscience, you must say my carriage hath euer beene such, as would rather mortifie, then kindle by such wicked and vnlawfull affections. But what doe I meane to contest thus with a man, that hath no other ends or consideration, then the satisfaction of his brutish desires, and to that purpose would set vpon euen modesty and chastity themselues, were they to be seene vnder the forme of women. In a word then, since you perceiue my inclinations to be as far from yours, as yours are from all vertue and goodnesse, I would wish you, if you loue your life, to desist from molesting me any more in this kind: otherwise be you well assured, I will make you feele how dangerous it is to attempt the honour of such, as hold it in a farre more esteeme than their deerest liues.

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28 MR 59

FINIS.